

FEBRUARY 1960

MAGAZINE OF THE



NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY

PRICE 6d

# SPASTICS NEWS



# NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY CENTRES

## NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.  
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.

Principal:  
H. B. Davies, Esq., B.Sc. (Econ.).

Chairman of the Board of Governors:  
Douglas Delarue, Esq., J.P.

Secondary Modern and Grammar Education for Spastics of 11 years and over.

Accommodation: 60.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Holmrook 242.

Principal:  
A. Lubran, Esq., M.R.S.T., A.A.O.T.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
J. D. Herd, Esq.

Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.

Accommodation: 30.

### HAWKSORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Menston 114.

Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.  
Assessment Centre for Spastic children between 5 and 13 years.

Accommodation: 27.

### DARESBURY HALL RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.

Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
George Evans, Esq.

Residential Centre for Male Spastics aged from 16 to 35 years.

Accommodation: 23.

### COOMBE FARM RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.

Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
R. Meek, Esq.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years. Accommodation: 38.

### THE "SHERRARDS" TRAINING CENTRE

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 2125.

Principal: E. L. Knight, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
The Hon. Lady Bowes Lyon.

Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.

Accommodation: 34, 2 Day Trainees.

### PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.

Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 25 to 40 years. Accommodation: 31.

### THE GRANGE:

High Street, Kelvedon.

Accommodates 13 Spastics over the age of 40 years.

## NATIONAL HOLIDAY HOTELS

### ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Telephone: Southend 476351.

Manageress: Miss M. Burden.

Chairman of the Management Committee:  
H. J. Savage, Esq., J.P.

Hotel for Spastics and accompanying relatives or friends. Accommodation: 19  
Write to Manageress for bookings.

### S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.  
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.

Manager: G. H. Marsh, Esq.

Open all year. Accommodation: 23.  
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## LOCAL CENTRES AND CLINICS

In close co-operation with Local Authorities and/or Hospital Management Committees, the following Groups provide or assist special schools and/or treatment centres:

Hull	Portsmouth
Northampton	Reading
Nottingham	Southend-on-Sea
Pontefract	Swindon

Working independently, the following Groups have set up special schools or treatment centres:

Birkenhead	Leicester
Bolton	Plymouth
Cheltenham	Stockport

Operating entirely by voluntary contributions, the following Groups have treatment centres with or without nursery

classes. Some of these centres operate every day, others only part time:

Bedford	North Stafford (Stoke)
Bollington and Macclesfield	Norwich
Bridgwater	Oldham
Brighton	Oxford
Croydon	Poole and Bournemouth
Epping	South West Middlesex
Gillingham	South West Surrey
Grimsby	Swansea
Ipswich	Urmston
Luton	Wycombe and District
Maidstone	
North London	York

The following Groups have, what might be termed, special occupation centres and,

in some cases, treatment is available together with speech therapy:

Cardiff	Ilford
Bristol	Scunthorpe
Crewe	Southampton
Dudley	Sale

What might be termed Welfare Departments, mainly designed to assist older Spastics, are operated by the following:

Bradford	Nottingham
Halifax	Widnes
N.W.London	

Work centres, varying in scope have been opened for adults by the following:

Croydon	N.W. Kent (Erith)
Central Middlesex	Stockport
Central Surrey	Swansea
Kingston-on-Thames	

A holiday home is run by Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Group.

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### OUR COVER

*Under the guidance of Mr. John H. Whitney, Woodwork Master at the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, a group of 26 students have started a project, "The Ships of the World". In all, 20 ships are planned and they will take five years to build.*

*Our cover picture shows the very first that was made, an Elizabethan galleon which has a hull of 30in. and a height of 32in. It took six months to complete, as each model has to have its own base and a special table built for it.*

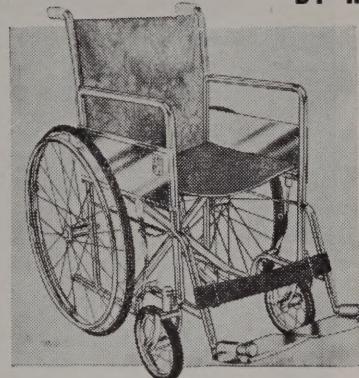
*Mr. Richard Hearne (Mr. Pastry) was so interested in the project that he is taking the galleon on exhibition in order to raise funds.*

*Already the students have made a Greek Bireme, a Fijian Outrigger and an Arab Dhow. They are now working on the "Cutty Sark".*

*The group is making good progress; their second model, the Greek Bireme, only took them three months to finish.*

## Wheelchair Rentals are the latest thing!

BY R. MOWBRAY



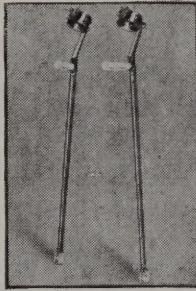
### Take a Tip!



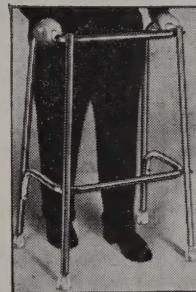
Be well advised! The Zimmer Walking Stick is adjustable in  $\frac{1}{4}$ " graduations. Fitted non-slip crutch tip and white non-stain cushion handgrip. Weight 1 lb. Made for long, dependable service.

### Comfort with Confidence

The Adjustable Elbow Crutch enables you to open doors, climb steps etc. with ease and safety. Fitted non-slip crutch tip and air cushion handgrips. Also Double Adjustable Elbow Crutch which permits alteration to height of crutch and distance from handgrip to armband.



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Although it weighs only 5 lb. and is easy to move, the Zimmer Lightweight Walking Aid provides strong, all-round support. Whether the user is walking or resting, a feeling of security is experienced. Made from  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. alloy tubing with four heavy duty non-slip rubber tips. Standard Model 33 ins. high.



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- Walking Stick
- Elbow Crutches
- Lightweight Walking Aid
- Quadruped Walking Aid

Zimmer Orthopaedic Ltd., Bridgend, Glam. G.B.  
Bridgend 938/1208, or Zimmer House,  
176 Brompton Road, London, S.W.3  
KNightsbridge 1919/9672

Name .....  
Address .....

(SN 33)

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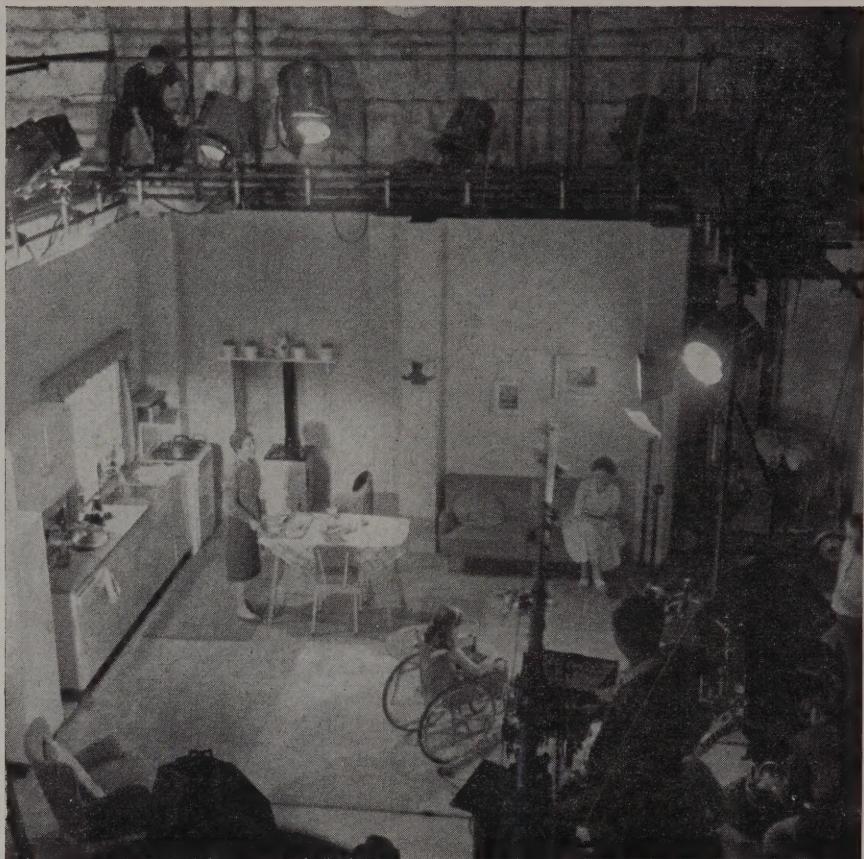
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## New N.S.S. Film

*A scene during the "shooting" of the new N.S.S. film "Jessy", which had its Press premiere in London on February 11th. We will be including some more stills from the film in our March issue*

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# FROM THE MAILBAG

## MOTHER'S LETTER

Dear Editor,

I am writing about my son Roy who is a spastic and cannot write very well himself. When he was born, three months premature, only weighing 2 lb. 10 oz., I was told he would never walk. After going to several hospitals, Roy walked for the first time at the age of 5½ years. Despite several operations, he still found difficulty. A few years later, he was one of the first at Coombe Farm and my thanks go to the Matron and Warden there, who worked wonders on him. On December 23rd 1957, with the help of the Employment Officer, he received a job going to private homes repairing television sets. Although he rides his tricycle to work, the journey still takes him over 1½ hours. I should like to buy him a car, but cannot manage on my small income. Roy loves "rock and roll" and to look at this photograph, one would never dream he was a spastic. My advice to all mothers of spastics is "not to fuss over them and let them do as much as they can for themselves."



Yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) L. BRANCH,  
Dagenham.

## SMALL ADS

Dear Editor,

Thank you for putting my advertisement in your magazine. It has enabled me to sell my tricycle, to Miss J. Payne of Reading. I am now waiting for her people to collect it.

Yours sincerely,  
(Miss) D. GREW,  
Smethwick, 41.

*(The NEWS is certainly a good advertising media. Another reader asks for a notice to be inserted. She is Miss D. Allen, of 16 Nottingham Place, London, W.1, who would like to contact Mr. Christian Adams.—Ed.).*

## APPRECIATION

Dear Editor,

My husband and I would like to offer our grateful thanks to the kindness and help we received from the Warden and staff of Daresbury Hall, on behalf of our son, Peter, who died there suddenly, recently. Also to the East Herts. Group, for all the help and encouragement we have received during the last few years.

I remain, yours sincerely,  
(Mrs.) J. MEADOWS,  
Ware, Herts.

## POOR PORKY

Dear Editor,

I am sure readers will be amused to see the following correspondence between our department and a Mr. Bradstock.

"Old Porky Flynn has come a cropper,  
He very soon won't raise his 'topper',  
He begins to look a trifle queer  
And cannot stop long with us here,  
If you don't come (or as needs must),  
Old Porky's tummy is going to BUST!!!"

Yours sincerely,  
(Mr.) L. BRADSTOCK,  
Patcham, Brighton, 6.

*Our reply:*

The Bard of Brighton we salute  
And thank him for his message cute.

Our Mr. Rodmore's on his way  
Your Pig will be relieved today.

It always is our best endeavour  
To give the finest service ever,  
If only we had the flipping time,  
All our letters would be in rhyme.

Yours sincerely,  
(Mr.) A. W. OVERLAND,  
Supervisor of Box Collections,  
National Spastics Society.

*Yours . . .*

*for a better letter*

**'Harley Bond'**

a high quality  
notepaper

NDH 1565

PADS FROM 10d  
ENVELOPES FROM 6d



*"I know my horns are long but you don't have to butt the crowds away all day." Sooty, the goat, who is one of the many animals in Bertram Mills' menagerie, looked philosophically at the breathless visitor.*

*The small boy was one of a party of spastic children from North-West and East London who, accompanied by their mothers, attended the matinée at Bertram Mills' Circus on January 15th.*

*During the interval, Coco the clown presented each child with a badge from the enormous collection pinned to his coat. For some of the youngsters this was their first visit to a circus and the animals, acrobats and clowns kept even the most mischievous child entertained*

#### ABBEY COLLECTION

Mr. W. R. J. Pullen of the Chapter Office, Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, has informed the Society that it has been elected to have the proceeds of the collection at the 3 o'clock service at Westminster Abbey on Sunday, April 10th.

#### TV STARS BRAVE MUD

Mud, mud, glorious mud greeted the TV All Stars XI on the pitch when they played the well-dressed gentlemen of football, Cecil Gee Wanderers. Twelve hundred people watched the match which was played at King Edward VII Recreation Ground in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the Willesden Old Folks' Charity. June Cunningham dressed in pink slacks and Wellington bootees braved the thick mire in order to speak to the players in mid-field but instead of kicking off as she was billed to do, Andrew Ray, son of Ted Ray, started the ball slithering for the Stars.

The Stars beat the Wanderers 2-1, after a game played in terrible conditions. Let's hope the players gained some benefit from their mud-pack treatment.

# COUNTRY WIDE

FROM  
OUR  
ROVING  
REPORTER

#### SHERRARDS' FIRST BALL

A second minibus was required for the trainees at "Sherrards" Training Centre at Welwyn. So in order to raise part of the money, what better excuse is needed to organise a ball. Under the chairmanship of Mr. E. L. Knight, the committee arranged a supper dance—Sherrards' first—for Friday, January 15th. And a very successful one it was too!

The 160 guests enjoyed the varied entertainment provided by the Harpenden Scottish dancing group and by Norman Tomkins who amused everybody with his sketches and xylophone lessons. Actor Donald Houston and his wife Brenda Hogan added glamour to the occasion and Brenda, lucky girl, won a trip to Paris for two. In our picture she helps herself to a tombola ticket.

Over £250 was raised, so that minibus is much nearer now!



## FULHAM PARTY

Mayors and market traders rubbed shoulders at a party given for the children of the North-West London Group. Traders from Shepherds Market and members from the fashion trade in the City and West End every year pay for the party and provide sweets and presents as well as meeting the cost of the transport. The Mayors and Mayresses of Westminster, Fulham, Chelsea, Hammersmith and Paddington, looked in to greet the children and see them enjoying themselves.

Mr. W. H. G. Targett, the Chairman of the Group, invited all the young people who were eligible to join the teenagers' club. The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Jacques of 80 Castellain Mans, W.9, said that although the club is a modest affair at present, she is keen to have suggestions for any activities suitable for the members, some of whom are heavily handicapped.

## POOLS CONTEST

"Where there's a will, there's a way" was the winning proverb in the Christmas competition promoted by the Friends of Spastics League. A million subscribers to the football pool were given a free entry form and had to place in correct order six of twelve proverbs as being the most apt and accurate in the light of modern conditions.

The first prize of £20,000 was won by Mrs. Margaret Andrews of S.W. London, whose choice was: 2. Spare the rod and spoil the child. 3. It's no use crying over spilt milk. 4. The darkest hour is just before the dawn. 5. The early bird catches the worm. 6. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. The remaining £30,000 was divided amongst the other winners.

## STAFFORD & DISTRICT SPASTICS ASSOCIATION

Stafford and District Association is thriving. Still a few months off its second birthday, it has become recognised as an official body within the town doing excellent work for handicapped people. At a monthly committee meeting, Mr. T. Yates, Treasurer, reported that the Association had now over £840. The Chairman, Mrs. F. Bridgwood, informed the meeting that Major and Mrs. Hugh Fraser had accepted the Association's invitation for them to become joint Presidents in succession to the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury. Major Fraser had said he would be delighted to take office and help in every possible way. The Association has ambitious plans for fund raising, the more notable of which include coffee evenings, barbecues and a Premium Bond draw.



*What's this, we thought the "jumping" days were over, but two little girls and a clown at the North-West Group's party in Fulham didn't want to be left out! Their characters?—happy we'd say*

## ALDERMAN MAKES RADIO APPEAL

A broadcast appeal was made on the B.B.C. Home Service on Sunday, February 7th, by Alderman A. E. Bennett, on behalf of the North Staffordshire Spastic Association.

The Association, which was formed in October 1950, hope in due course to adapt property, at present disused, at their headquarters in Jasper-street, Hanley, to provide sheltered workshops. The cost of this work will be between £4,000 and £5,000. The immediate need, however, is to extend the work of the clinic which now opens one night a week and gives treatment to about 130 patients.

The Association, which takes patients from all parts of North Staffordshire, is entirely self-supporting. Contributions to the appeal should be addressed to Alderman Bennett at the Reginald Grotto Memorial Clinic, Jasper-street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

Miss D. L. Gum, Director, Ashford House School for Cerebral Palsy Children, South Australia, was awarded the M.B.E.

## WILFRED PICKLES TEACHER ENGAGED

Miss Pauline Mabel Phillips, younger daughter of Lieut-Colonel W. Burnard Phillips and Mrs. Phillips of Welwyn Garden City, has become engaged to Mr. Peter John Seward, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Seward of Peterborough. Miss Phillips has been teaching at the Wilfred Pickles School for two years. A member of the London Motor Club, she is a keen rally competitor and is also a good horsewoman and used to hunt with the Enfield Chase.

## WASHING UP

Washing up after dinner may not be your idea of having a good time, but it was for one young Preston woman. She was the guest of Mrs. W. G. Jehan, Cintra-avenue, Preston. The Preston and District Group have made a new year resolution that seems well worth keeping, to invite a spastic to their homes for a day. As Mrs. Jehan said, "It's not enough that the spastic should learn to live with normal people, normal people have to learn to live with them. Her young guest begged to be allowed to do the washing up and when she agreed, said, "Thank you. People usually say, 'You cannot wash, you take too long and will probably break the dishes'."



Courtesy: *Surrey Comet*.

*The big moment arrives—Brian Rix fits the beribboned key into the lock to open the door of the new Work Centre at Kingston*

The North Surrey Group held an inauguration ceremony, on Friday, 29th January, of their new work centre at 121 London Road, Kingston-on-Thames. Coffee was served at the "Three Tuns", the inn just opposite, and many of the local people, some of whom hold prominent positions, were present.

Brian Rix, the well-known actor who is on the committee of the S.O.S., officiated. Glancing at a key which he took out of a box he remarked, "This key I hold in my hand is not just an every day means to open a door, it is a golden key to a bright future for our young people. Let us hope that these work centres will grow from strength to strength and that many more will enjoy working in them."

Accompanied by the Bishop of Kingston, he then left the "Three Tuns" to cross over the road to the work centre. Already there were six girls and four men, whose ages range from sixteen to the middle thirties, seated round a large table busy making calendars from cigarette packets. The calendars are very skilfully worked in the form of a flower. Everyone seemed extremely happy and it was as if an unseen hand co-ordinated their work.

Owing to the small size of the workshop, the inspection parties were comprised of only eight people.

Great support to the venture was given by many group members and locally interested people and organisations. The work centre started to operate unofficially, on 7th October 1959, with four of the adults who had previously been home-trained and two Supervisors who are paid on a part-time basis, working in it. The number of trainees was gradually increased to ten, only four of whom are mobile, even though the maximum capacity of the centre is twelve. However, the potential number of "would be" trainees is far greater.

## New WORK CENTRE

Launched  
by a  
Star

The effect on the morale and spirits of the people employed has so far been startling, for this is the first time that any of them have known social life equivalent to normal working conditions. The Management Committee has been most impressed by their keenness to make the venture a success. This has also proved to be beneficial to the hard working parents.

From the beginning of the North Surrey Group's formation in 1953 (it was then the Kingston and District Group) there has been the ambition to create a centre for the benefit of the older spastics. Not until a group member who wished to raise funds in 1956 began to produce, at home, calendars from cigarette cartons, did the idea gradually evolve that here was the possibility of training and employing handicapped adults in the production of these calendars.

During the ensuing year this fund raising production was increased by efforts of several other voluntary helpers. The production was then organised into several individual and consecutive processes which enabled a few adult home-bound spastics to be trained in as many of these processes as their disability would allow, and their efforts were rewarded by the maximum wages permissible without loss of National Assistance.

Obtaining the premises suitable for such a project proved a long and arduous task, and after several unsuccessful negotiations, premises owned by the Kingston Corporation and due for demolition were made available from October 1959, on a year's lease.

The rate of production of calendars is somewhat erratic due to sick leave by the trainees. Inevitably, the overall cost of each calendar is more than the selling price, and the venture has to be heavily subsidised by other voluntary fund raising efforts but right from the beginning demand has far exceeded the production of these calendars.

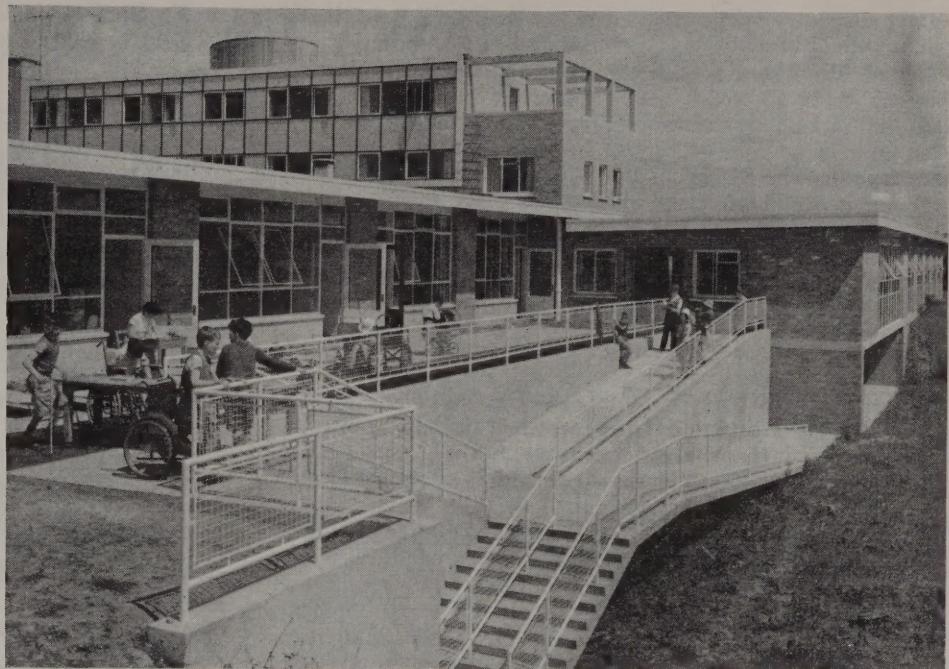


*A Calendar 8 ins. in diameter made by the trainees from packets of Kensitas cigarettes*

DAME  
HANNAH ROGERS  
SCHOOL  
DEVON

*Collaborating Architects:*

EDWARD NARRACOTT & PARTNER,  
F/A.R.I.B.A.  
JOHN EVANS, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.



*The Classroom wing and ramp to covered play area, with the three-storey administration block behind*

The Dame Hannah Rogers School at Ivybridge, Devon, is now affiliated to the N.S.S. This school, which accommodates 50 children, is operated by a Trust Fund as a private concern. It takes its name from Dame Hannah Rogers, who in 1887 founded an orphanage for domestic servants. The Chairman is Mr. N. Capener, F.R.C.S., of Churchfield Hill, Barnfield Hill, Exeter.

In 1953, the Round Tables of Devon launched an appeal, known as the Fifteen Thousand Fund, in commemoration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The appeal brought in £25,000 and with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and the N.S.S., which contributed £15,800, the building was erected and officially opened in June 1959.

Children come from homes spread over a wide area to be trained and the school is therefore of necessity a boarding school with residential accommodation for children and staff, in addition to the teaching and medical accommodation. The total floor area is 24,916 square feet.

The site is on the edge of the Devonshire moors at the north end of the A.38 road and the ground slopes quite steeply towards south which has led to corridor access planning with the main classrooms and children's dormitories arranged along the contour. The Trustees considered planning on one level to be essential. The external layout has been arranged to provide a level play area outside the classrooms, and a further area to be paved at a future date has been arranged at the west end of the building to act as an outside teaching area.

Although stairs are a natural hazard to physically-handicapped children, it is important that they should be given some opportunity to learn their use if at all possible, to assist in fitting them for everyday life after leaving school. This has been achieved by incorporating a staircase with a ramp leading to the lower play area in front of the building.

Floor finishes are varied and have been selected as the most practical for each individual situation. Central heating is by

oil-fired boilers using floor heating generally on the ground floor, and radiators on the first and second floors in the adjoining three-storey administration block.

### PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL

The affiliation of the Percy Hedley School to the N.S.S. was approved on January 31st. This school for spastic children is situated at Hampeth Lodge, Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The Chairman of the school is Mr. Joshua Gray and Mr. H. H. Severs is Secretary and Treasurer.

### SEMI-RESIDENTIAL CENTRE AT SALE

The Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society are planning a semi-residential centre for 24 children, most of whom are ineducable. Twelve of the children will be looked after from Monday morning until Wednesday midday and the other twelve from Wednesday midday until Friday evening. The main object of this scheme is to give parents and the family a break.

At the present time "Tictor House", the Society's day centre, is only used on two days a week for these children. An extension consisting of occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy rooms is being built, together with washing facilities and six extra toilets. For the convenience of the drivers transporting the children to and from the school, there is a large car park and garage and the Mecca Company are providing the Society with an ambulance.

The outside structure of the building is now ready and the central heating is being installed. In a week or two the flooring will be laid and the interior decorated.

Sir Harry Platt will officially open the Centre on May 21st.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**Blackpool:** The Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group have set up a handicraft class which takes place each afternoon at their centre at Beechfield. It was felt that, although the centre is incomplete, if a few of the spastics attended this class, it would be a small start towards their project. They are still in great need of funds to open their Home.

**Nottingham:** Mrs. H. E. Wolff, the Honorary Secretary of "Friends of Spastics" Group which is a sub-committee of the Nottingham District Cripples' Guild, received a cheque for £300 to be shared equally between the Group and the Guild. This was raised by Billy Walker, Manager of Nottingham Forest, last year's cup final winners.

Mrs. Wolff said that the biggest job on hand was to try and provide holidays for ineducable children with the main idea of giving parents a rest. The Nottingham Group pay fares and half the expenses for a fortnight at one of the seaside centres.

**Glasgow:** After three children had been saved from their blazing tenement home in Glasgow, rescuers still feared that a fourth child was trapped by the flames. But five-year-old Robert McLean, a spastic, had made his own way out of the top flat in Whitehall Street, Anderston, and down the stairs to safety.

**East London:** Mr. E. L. Stamford, Hon. Secretary of the East London Spastic Society, is very enthusiastic about a new service which his group plans to offer to families with spastic children. "It is our aim to buy one of the new type chalets, available at most of the popular holiday resorts", he said. "Without furniture the cost would be about £600 each, so that we shall need £1,400. Members of our committee have viewed the chalets and found them to be most suited to the needs of a handicapped child."

**Nuneaton:** Nuneaton Vespa Club, formed just over a year ago looked back on a successful first year of existence at their recent annual meeting. Readers will perhaps remember the work the club has been doing for its adopted charity, the Coventry and District Spastics Association, and now the Nuneaton Borough Council have given permission to the Association to hold a street collection in the town this year.

**Plymouth:** The Plymouth and Devonport Technical College Rag, held in November, raised over £1,128 for Trengweth Spastics' School and Centre, Hartley, and Dame Hannah Rogers School for Spastics at Ivybridge. The total more than doubled the 1958 Rag Collection, which raised £550. "The success of this Rag was undoubtedly due to co-operation of the people of Plymouth", said the

Rag Committee Chairman, Mr. Roger Mutton. On January 15th members of the Rag Committee visited the two schools and presented the cheques to the delighted principals.

**Grimsby:** Has anyone an acre or two of land to sell—preferably on the outskirts of Grimsby or on the fringe of the green belt? Mr. R. C. Baker, Chairman of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Spastics Society, made this appeal for a site for their spastic treatment centre. The search for land is the only problem holding up building plans. So far spastic children have been receiving only part-time care in Grimsby. The new centre is intended to give full-time treatment as well as providing educational facilities.

**Newport:** A complete new face-lift including dozens of new features—some being used for the first time in this country—has brought Stow Hill Baths, Newport, into line with the best swimming baths in the country. The remedial suite has just been equipped with the most up-to-date apparatus and a fully qualified physiotherapist is in attendance for foam, luma, and brine baths and ultra-violet, infra-red rays, paraffin wax and short-wave diathermy treatments. This, coupled with the special apparatus for spastics, poliomyelitis and orthopaedic patients enables Newport to offer spa treatment of the highest standard in Wales.

**Cambridge:** A part-time home visiting teacher for spastic children is to be appointed in Hunts. The Chairman of the Hunts Education Special Services sub-committee was authorised to approve the amount of tuition to be given to each child and the number of sessions to be made by the persons appointed.

**Salisbury:** The Spastics Rehabilitation Unit, Odstock Hospital, is to receive £246 for additional teaching assistance from the Wiltshire County Council. Children from the unit were invited to a party given by the Salisbury and District branch of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association. Previously the branch had presented the Unit with a record player and a number of records for use as an educational aid.

**Stroud:** A group of young people have formed a Stroud Young Businessmen's Association. Their first venture was a charity party for spastics and this proved so popular that they hope to hold similar functions. One of the objects of the Association is to help local charities and it is also intended that the meetings should act as a social get-together for young men and women from various walks of business life. As there is no other association of its kind in the locality, it is felt that the scope is unlimited and suggestions for an interesting programme will be welcomed.

**Belfast:** Nutt's Corner Airport staff entertained a number of spastic children at a circus in the Empire Theatre, Belfast. Refreshments were served to the children during the interval.

**Norwich:** There are 90 spastics in the area of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association. The figure is reported in the 1959-60 Year Book of the Association, just published. In a foreword, the local Association states its aim to be: "to accumulate sufficient funds to build or purchase a suitable building for our centre."

**Portland:** Mr. Wheadon, licensee of the Royal Victoria Lodge Hotel at Portland, has a choice of bells on which to ring "Time, Gentlemen, Please." It has always been the custom for Mr. Wheadon to bring the evening to a close on a ship's bell. Recently the National Spastics Fund, in appreciation of the £20 the hotel raised for them in a "pile of pennies" collection, presented him with a smaller bell with a more musical note.

**St. Albans:** The St. Albans and District Group of the Hertfordshire Spastics' Society will receive £300 from a charity ball and cabaret held at the Waterend Barn, St. Albans, under the auspices of St. Albans and District Chamber of Commerce. More than 250 people attended, including Mr. James Hayter of the cast of "My Fair Lady" and the Mayor of St. Albans (Mrs. S. E. Dunham) who is also the Chairman of the Society. She is anxious to provide better facilities for spastics in St. Albans.

**Peterborough:** The Peterborough Youth Employment Office Report covering the period October 1st, 1958, to September 30th, 1959, revealed that as a marked result of co-operation between the N.S.S., the local Rotary Club and the Employment Bureau, a spastic boy was satisfactorily placed as a trainee salesman.

**Stockport:** On January 23rd, representatives of spastics' groups from all over the North of England converged on to Stockport for a One-day Conference at Granville House, Heaton Moor, headquarters of the Stockport and District Spastics Society. The theme of the conference was "The Function, Operation and Maintenance of a Local Project". The Society is to extend its educational and treatment centre at Granville House to accommodate another 20 children.

**Flintshire:** Mr. W. T. Pierce, Chairman of the Flint Borough Spastic Association, thanked everyone who had helped to raise £80 at a recent ball. He stated that the Association's immediate aim was for a new Day Centre to be built at Blacon, Chester.

\* \* \*

**Walford:** The Walford and District Group of the Herts. Spastic Society are working hard to raise funds for the spastic remedial clinic which it is hoped will be built this year. The group raised £269 on their stall at the United Children's Charities Bazaar held at the local Town Hall. This total topped the list of all nine participating societies.

**York:** The York and District Spastic Group have a new van which is used to transport dolls, boxes, publicity material, etc., between York and towns and villages in the district.

In a recent letter published in the *York Evening Press* Mr. Jack C. Bytheway, Secretary of the Group, said, "It is unfortunate that some parents of spastics still try to conceal the fact. Such parents should read that inspired book 'Angel Unaware' by Dale Evan Rogers, wife of the famous cowboy actor, Roy Rogers, and the mother of a spastic child."

**Bournemouth:** A charity concert in aid of the National Spastics appeal will be given in March by the Territorial Army Band at the Drill Hall, Holdenhurst-road, Bournemouth. They will be accompanied by the well-known local singing group, the Octavians.

**Harrow:** A newly-formed group from the Queensbury area raised £20 from a variety show they produced at "All Saints" Church Hall on January 16th. The money will go to the Central Middlesex Spastic Welfare Society. It is hoped that the show will be an annual event.

**Conway:** Everyone voted the *Manchester Evening News* dance night at Llandudno a big success and over 200 supported the night of modern ballroom dancing held in aid of the Conway Spastics' Society. Mr. T. Brooks, the Chairman of the Society, said that as a result of the evening it was hoped to send a spastic family for a holiday on the south coast during the summer.

THERE ARE NO  
CRISPS  
TO EQUAL  
SMITH'S  
FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR

# DARESBURY HALL, CHESHIRE

## NEW THERAPY AND WORKSHOP UNIT



*Artist's Impression*

This scheme, on which building work was started early in February, forms the second stage of the development programme for the Daresbury Hall Residential Centre.

It has been planned to provide training accommodation for the 26 male residents of Daresbury, and also for 24 female residents who, it is hoped, will be coming into Daresbury in the not too distant future.

Sited in the wooded grounds, close to the main house, the new building will contrast pleasantly with the "Queen Anne" style of the hall itself. Indeed, the Cheshire County Planning Officer, who is most concerned that the appearance of so historic a building as Daresbury should not be spoilt by unsightly "additions", was most complimentary in his approval of the scheme.

Approached from the main drive at the front of the hall, a covered porch leads directly into a wide entrance hall. This space, which will be decorated in gay colours, is large enough to allow free movement of wheel chairs, and along one wall will be a "chair park".

To the left and right of the main entrance will be the male and female toilets, specially planned for easy use and also a staff toilet.

Across the hall is the entrance to the first workshop. This is to be a large, airy room, some 63ft. 0in. long by 25ft. 0in. wide, with tall, continuous windows giving views of the gardens.

At the opposite end of the entrance hall is the second workshop, similar in size, and these two rooms will provide ample space for the many occupational therapy activities it is hoped to develop at Daresbury. Between the two workshops, and

facing the south, will be a paved "patio", where, in warm weather, outdoor therapy can take place.

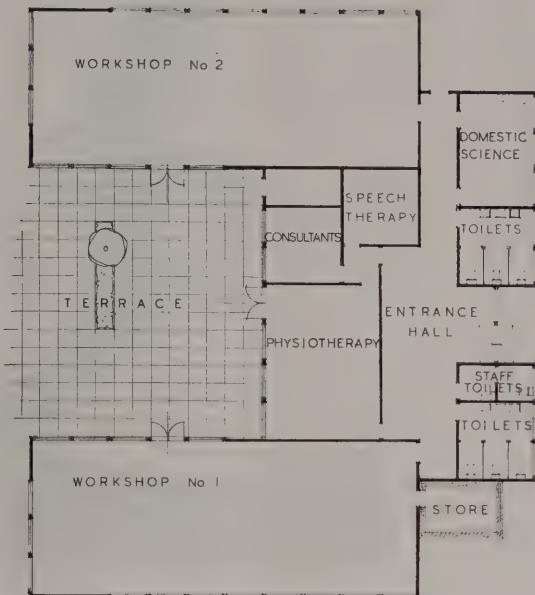
Enclosed on three sides by the long low building, and approached from the main rooms by wide french windows, this patio will form a veritable sun-trap, with a very fine view over the countryside.

Besides the two workshops, the centre portion of the building contains a large physio-therapy room and a separate speech therapy room, fully soundproofed against outside noise. Between the two rooms will be a pleasant office for the medical consultants.

The new building will be speedily erected, since the main structure is to be of a prefabricated type of construction known as the "Derwent" system. This has been widely and successfully used during the past few years, particularly for schools and welfare buildings of all types.

Daresbury, of course, was the original home of Lewis Carroll, and an anonymous friend of Daresbury has promised to give three carved stone panels, to be built into the structure. These will show some of the famous "Alice in Wonderland" characters and commemorate in some small measure, the author's connection with Daresbury Hall.

J. H. CHEETHAM, A.R.I.B.A.,  
Chartered Architect,  
3 Palmyra Square South,  
Warrington.



PROPOSED THERAPY UNIT

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

**COL. J. C. JEFFERSON,  
O.B.E.**

ORGANISER—  
SHELTERED WORKSHOP



The newly-appointed Organiser of the sheltered workshop and hostels to be built in Birmingham for 120 spastics, is Colonel J. C. Jefferson, O.B.E., M.I.E.E., A.M.B.I.M., who retired recently from the army.

A designer and production engineer of rotating A.C. and D.C. electrical machinery, he won a Regular Commission in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1937 as an Ordnance Mechanical Engineer Officer. After a year's technical course at the Royal Military College of Science, he became Inspecting Officer and Commander of a small workshop and later controlled a repair and recovery section serving the 1st Division of the B.E.F. However, in 1940, an injury caused him to be evacuated from the B.E.F. and he was posted to the War Office where he served until 1948. During this time, he dealt

with the supply of manpower and equipment and the setting up of mobile and static workshops supporting our troops at home and overseas. Colonel Jefferson was the Assistant Director of Mechanical Engineering and his fine work in the organisation and formation of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, earned him the O.B.E.

Subsequently, he commanded a large static workshop and was Assistant Director at H.Q. Southern Command and the War Office where he was concerned with workshop accommodation, management policy, repair techniques and work study. His final year in the army was spent as Deputy Chief Inspector and Colonel Co-ordination R.E.M.E. Technical Services when he was responsible, prior to their acceptance by the army, for the inspection of all new and repaired technical equipment from R.E.M.E. workshops and industry. In October, 1948, Colonel Jefferson voluntarily retired and undertook four months' rehabilitation to industry training, to study current industrial technique, but found it little different from army practice, as large R.E.M.E. workshops are now chiefly staffed by civilian technicians.

Colonel Jefferson likes to relax, in his spare time, on the tennis court and in the swimming pool, although his chief hobby is making microscopes and electronic devices. We wish Colonel Jefferson every success in his new venture.

Miss M. F. Richards has taken over the position of Welfare Assistant in the Employment Department of the N.S.S. in place of Miss A. Driscoll.

# Be 'Barbara Moore'

## IN COMFORT !!!

... and it is not as complicated as all that.

It is just a reference to a paragraph in the last issue of SPASTICS NEWS which caused interest amongst certain readers and dealt with a new invention of a machine to enable one to have walking exercise.

The inventor, Mr. Les Dennis, was born in Brighton and is a most charming man. One of the victims of the tragedy of the last World War, he lost his eyesight (but is able to distinguish shadows) at Dunkirk in 1940, only a few months after enlisting in the Army. His handicap is hardly noticeable as he talks and moves with animation and confidence.

He trained as a builder and after the war started a business which was one of the first to rebuild houses in Brighton and its surrounding districts. In just under three years his staff of three grew to forty. Of course, building restrictions after the war were very severe but Les managed to pull through.

In 1948 he went to Crawley New Town to help on the new estates and there he had to admit that building was beyond him; he lost the little sight which was left. Consequently he had to look for a new occupation. The St. Dunstan's Society for the Blind held the view that he was just too old to study physiotherapy, much to his dismay, but it was decided he should become a shopkeeper. In 1949 he bought a tobacconist shop in Croydon and today he has moved and expanded his business, selling newspapers and confectionery as well.



*This was the old way—Les walks while his wife 'cycles'*



*Les Dennis trains on his new machine*

Les has many and varied interests, he loves music, especially Chopin, and was a great one with the drums. Many times he organised and played at social dances. Although he doesn't play any more, he and his wife love to dance and whenever they can spare the time they go off to a local gathering. An art lover who used to paint, Les is able to continue his interest through his sixteen-year-old daughter who is a student at the Croydon College of Art, and is still able to explain points to her by drawing them.

However, Les' main love is athletics and walking. He has belonged to many clubs over the years and hard to believe though it is, has walked the London to Brighton race *ten* times. Last July he reached one of his ambitions. He became a Centurion and was awarded his silver badge by the Lord Mayor at a ceremony at the Mansion House in September. Les had walked 106 miles from London to Brighton and back again!

The Surrey Walking Club were placed second in the team race because of his success.

One of his difficulties is getting sufficient walking practice. Sometimes in good weather he would attach a piece of string to the back of his wife's 'cycle and follow behind as she rode ahead. This had its drawbacks especially when they came to hills and he often had to push his wife, bicycle and all. Occasionally a friend would walk with him but this too was not always convenient as the outings would have to be arranged in advance.

What could be done? Seven years ago the germ of an idea was planted in his mind. Why not build a machine similar to those they have in gymnasiums for cycling or rowing but geared for walking? Why have to travel for hours in the cold winds when, in the comfort of your own home, you could cover miles—without ever moving from the spot; perhaps even watch the television at the same time!

During these seven years Les lost a lot of friends. Who could put up with a crazy man's idea of a "walking" machine.

It was nonsense. However, his dream persisted, until one day he met his friend, Stan Swetman, a local fireman. "Stan", he said, "I am going to break up a beautiful friendship." "How?" replied the other. "I am going to tell you about a new idea of mine." After he had unloaded his precious burden, Stan said, "Let me go home and think about it."

That was the end or rather the beginning. In a very short time ideas were sorted out and translated into fact. The machine was ready.

The prototype is built on a meccano-like principal consisting of a Dexion base on to which are fastened a number of rollers. Over these runs a continuous rubber belt. The rollers are adjustable to allow for easier or more difficult exercise. A belt to be fastened around the waist is attached to a bar at the head of the machine and this helps to keep the walker in the right position. No motor is necessary as the walker must make his own movement.

The way in which his invention really gave him the true exercise he needed gave Les the idea that here was a machine which could be useful to many people. A little spastic girl who lives opposite his home in Croydon made him realise that this was the answer to teaching spastic people to walk. He added parallel adjustable bars to which the person could hold on safely as he walked. An additional stimulus is a speedometer fixed to the belt so that the number of miles and the speed can be noted. This would be a fine incentive to a young spastic especially if the speed of famous athletes were noted on a nearby chart and the child could try to emulate them.

Les Dennis is very keen to put his invention on the market and two firms, one in Slough and one in Carshalton, have expressed their interest. He hopes to manufacture more streamlined models and some smaller ones specially for children.

Walking is very much in the news these days. The famous sculptor's wife pounds the roads of Britain and two men rush to join her. Mr. Raymond Heath from Normacot, wanted to test his chances of beating her records. Although he gave up his trek because of his wife's ill-health, a van collecting money for our Society drove alongside him during his journey.

Another walker, 51-year old Leonard Berry of Halifax, left Halifax for Edinburgh planning to fortify himself along the route with bars of chocolate and hot water. Mr. Berry, too, doesn't just want to walk. Any money he gets out of his record-breaking attempt will go to spastics.

Well walkers everywhere, unite! If you are going to help Spastics Societies the SPASTICS NEWS will be happy to lay in a plentiful supply of cornplasters for you.

When Les Dennis was asked whether Dr. Barbara Moore should have one of his machines, he replied, "It would do her the world of good and she wouldn't suffer the rigours of the cold winds and rains."

Les is now in training—on his machine of course—for the next London to Brighton race in May.

If his machine will really help the many spastics who are unable to walk to get sufficient exercise easily and lead them to a normal life, we say that the manufacturers should hurry up and produce large numbers at a reasonable price. Let them be within the price range of all who need them.

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JOINT MEETING  
of  
THE MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES  
of the N.S.S. and the B.C.W.S.

The Joint Meeting of the Medical Advisory Committees of the National Spastics Society and the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics was held at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, on January 23rd, with Professor A. A. Moncrieff in the Chair.

The items under consideration were "The Provision of special facilities for Ineducable Spastics" (a shortened version of this talk by Dr. Shapiro appears below) and "International Collaboration on the problem of Social Paediatrics."

After the discussions the committees were shown the National Spastics Society's film, "Door to Freedom".

#### International Collaboration

Professor Moncrieff, who recently returned from Paris, reported on the proposed survey of physically-handicapped children instigated by the International Children's Centre in Paris. Each country interested in the proposal had been asked to find out the views of their country on the possibility of an enquiry into the ascertainment of the physically-handicapped person, the cause of the handicap and a broad survey on the availability of "treatment". It was hoped that countries who

made poor provision could be persuaded to raise the standard of their facilities.

The Paris Centre was prepared to finance meetings of delegates but would not be able to accept any financial obligation for the work in the countries joining the survey. The N.S.S., however, offered secretarial help and expenses for the working committee discussing the questionnaire.

In some parts of France it had been found that 40 per cent. of the physically-handicapped people (which in the French survey went up to 30 years of age) were not in fact known to any official body. A far larger proportion were known in this country but, in isolated rural districts, there might be lack of ascertainment and some people who became handicapped after the age of 15 years might not be known. In view of this, Professor Moncrieff felt that it was worthwhile for Britain to take part in the survey.

A working committee was appointed to fill in the questionnaire, after which professional bodies could be approached to elect representatives to the Paris conference, which takes place in the third week in March.

There will be a further meeting in Paris in March with a delegate from each country to discuss the questionnaires which will then have been collected and summarised.

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## THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR INEDUCABLE SPASTICS

by Dr. A. Shapiro, Harperbury Hospital, Nr. St. Albans, Herts.

It was felt for a long time that facilities available to the C.P. patient in the M.D. hospital were inadequate, and at the same time it was almost impossible to have our patients admitted into any of the existing Spastic Units. Dissatisfied with this state of affairs, Dr. Taylar and myself felt that we ought to set up a Unit within the hospital.

Representations were made to the Hospital Committee in March 1957, and in January 1958, the Nuffield Trust pledged the sum of £18,000 towards the cost of the Unit. Building commenced on September 14th, 1959, and it is hoped that the Unit will be completed and ready for use during the summer of 1960.

The problem of the spastic patient in our hospital is rather different from that in the community at large for to begin with we have a large number of adult cases who are also very much in need of treatment. Our provisions must keep in mind the treatment of patients of all ages. Incidentally, although I use the term "spastics" here, it is my firm belief that the term includes different medical conditions and diagnostic entities which have in common the fact that they have

disturbances in motility and very frequently associated sensory handicaps as well. In defining treatment the case of each individual patient will have to be carefully assessed and kept in mind.

The Unit, as it has been devised, consists of a building, mainly, with two large rooms—one to be used for physiotherapy and the other for occupational therapy and education, and ciné-photography. There will be enough office accommodation for the consultant to examine cases—a room for psychological testing, a room for speech therapy—and we hope audiology.

It is important to realise that although our type of patient is officially described as "ineducable" the term is not a good one, particularly as it gives the impression that nothing can be done for the patient. It is true that these patients are unsuitable for treatment in ordinary schools because of their much more severe handicap, particularly if it is associated with some mental retardation, and severe speech defect, but I feel it is necessary to stress that these are the cases which

(Please turn to page 19)

# MR. BUTCHARD REMEMBERS

The Story of a Victorian Spastic



George Butchard today

## THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND AFTER

One of our first reactions to the outbreak of war was the decision to dig up one of the lawns and grow crops. Then came our feeble efforts at protection from air raids. We placed sandbags around the doors and made the kitchen as bomb-proof as possible, for we had no confidence in the efficacy of the shelters then in use. We stayed at Powis Lodge all through the war and we had bombs all around us. One night, on hearing the anti-aircraft guns, we moved from the sitting room into the kitchen. It was as well, for blast shattered the windows and when we went back we found that my chair was covered with glass.

Next door to us stands the Parish Church and the window at the east end faces on to our garden. When war came the stained glass was removed and plain glass inserted in temporary frames, wedged tight with wood, but not puttied in. One afternoon I had been sitting near this window but, after tea, decided that I would do some gardening instead of continuing with my reading, as the hot day had now given place to a lovely cool evening. I had hardly started working when there was a terrific crash of broken glass. The whole of the church window had fallen to the ground just where I had been sitting. As there was no air raid in progress at the time, I was at a loss to understand the cause of the crash. I found out later that the wooden frames had shrunk in the dry weather and through lack of adequate fixing, simply fell down.

This time the Army thought they could win the war without me, but Civil Defence thought I was just the man for putting out fires. I felt it was very kind of them to think so highly of me, but decided that it would be better for all

concerned if I kept away. I was supposed to report at eight o'clock one winter morning, but I stayed in bed and nothing happened. My aunt would have had to go with me, as I was not at that time able to go out alone, and she was getting on for 80. As the war continued it began to tell on me and I felt it harder and harder to overcome my handicap. It was the strain of inactivity, of not being able to go out for walks and leading the normal life that I had accustomed myself to during the years. I had to spend most of the time in the kitchen where the windows were boarded up and the electric light switched on all the time. It was some time after the war before I began to feel really fit again.

All through the war I looked forward to going once again for bus rides to London with Aunt Maud, but the war and increased age had made an old woman of her and she no longer had any desire to go out. Things had changed indeed, for it was now I who was looking after Maud. When, on rare occasions, we did go out, she held on to me for support, she who for so many years had supported me. When, at last, going for walks proved too much for her, Kate or a friend would accompany me.

At this time a great feeling of restlessness came over me. I felt that I was getting so much better that what we had hoped and worked for might at last come true, that I might manage to become completely independent. Up till this time, Maud had always shaved me. She meant well, but I always found it a most painful operation, so now I bought an electric razor and managed for myself. Independence seemed a little nearer still. And there was yet another step in the right direction. Maud and I had never been away from each other, even for one night, but now my sisters asked me to stay with them and I went. After I had been with them for a week without untoward incident I felt that once again I had won a victory.

Some time after this my uncle, the doctor, bought me a book which was to alter the whole course of my life. It was Dr. Carlson's: "Born That Way". Reading this book gave me new hope and confidence and it was not long before I persuaded Kate to take me to the common and leave me there. This was the very first time in my life that I had been alone outside the garden and I don't mind admitting that I was scared. However, I took my courage in both hands and I arrived home safely, feeling a new man. After that, it was but a short while before I went to the town on a shopping expedition. I was overjoyed to know that, at last, I could go out on my own.

Aunt Maud had not been well for some time and in the autumn of 1952 she passed over. For 60 years we had never been parted. As the years passed we came to love each other and to understand each other's wishes and for quite 30 years of those years she was more dependent on me than I on her. In the few years before her death she held on to me for support and it made me very proud and happy to know that in this small way I was paying her back for all that she had done for me.

I am always being told that I have improved since my aunt's death and that it was a pity she kept me back and did not let me do things for myself. I think my readers will agree that, far from keeping me back, by her wonderful work in training and educating me she had fitted me for life and left me able to carry on for myself when she could no longer be with me.

Now that I was able to go out by myself, I began going for three or four mile walks. A relative was very surprised when I walked the three miles to Blackheath to visit him.

His son had a farm in Devon and he took me down there on a visit. I had read many books on Devon and it was wonderful to be able to see its beauties for myself. Current for my electric razor was not available in the house, so I grew a beard; I have had one ever since and am very pleased to find myself in the forefront of masculine fashion.

Some little time before my aunt's death, I became a member of the Woolwich and District Antiquarian Society. I attended lectures, but for some time was rather reticent in joining the coach excursions to places of antiquarian interest. But now I go on as many outings as I can and I have made many new friends.

One day I was asked why I had not joined the Spastic Fellowship. It was the first I had heard of a local club and it was not long before I became a member, though not a very active one at first. At that time I had never been on a bus by myself. I wrote to the local secretary, asking him to come to see me. We soon became good friends and he used to cycle over for a game of chess. I wanted to go and see the club, so a friend took me. My first impression was that there was a lot of work to be done for the spastics themselves and also for their parents, in order to give them some idea how best to help their children. When I got used to going in the bus myself, I often went down to the club and in time I was elected to the committee. Like so many before me, I tried to improve the lives of my fellow spastics; but I found that I could not get very far.

#### THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENS

Every spastic indulges at times in day-dreams in which they imagine that they can live and do things naturally. I know I used to and today, in 1958, most of those dreams have come true. It has been a long and, at times, a hard fight and often I had to start all over again. When I started a banking account, the manager handed me my cheque book and said that he wanted me to write out my own cheque. It was the best thing he could have told me to do. I thought: "If the manager wants me to do it, that is good enough." Now I am used to it.

One day I thought I would try going for a bus ride by myself, so I went to Beckenham, in Kent. I got on fairly well, but as the conductor had not been taught Spastics at school, it took him some time to find out where I wanted to go. Before this, I had invited one of my numerous lady friends to go to London with me. We used to take sandwiches which we ate in one of the parks. Once we had them sitting on the steps of the Temple, just off the Strand. I often used to be taken to restaurants as a boy, but during the war I got out of the way of it. When I joined the Royal Horticultural Society, and went to the shows in Vincent Square I thought I would have lunch there. This was a start and now I am quite used to it. I have had some unpleasant experiences in restaurants, but I have been big enough to laugh at them. Once I went to a hotel restaurant in London and the head waiter was very kind and helpful. When I left, he said: "I hope you will come again, sir." So, a few weeks later, when I was in that part of London, I thought I would lunch at the same place, as they were so nice and friendly. I went in and sat down and a new waiter came up to my table. He seemed quite friendly and said: "Not that table, sir." He took my arm and said: "Come this way." He walked me to a door, opened it and pushed me into the street. I walked round to the other door and got my hat, coat and walking-stick and then went and had lunch in another restaurant, hoping they would not mind serving



*George Butchard working in his favourite part of the garden, with the summer-house in the background*

spastics. Our club Welfare Officer took the matter up and wrote to the manager of the hotel. They wrote back to say they were very sorry, but they had a new waiter and they would be happy to serve lunch to Mr. Butchard at any time. So another Pilgrim's Progress was begun and, in 1958, I stayed by myself for a whole week at a guest-house in Westcliffe. It turned out to be a great success and I came home all the better for it. But even greater adventure was in store, for the following September I was taken on a motor trip to Wales, with its beautiful mountains and valleys.

About a year before this I was at a garden party where I met a gentleman sitting at a table with a chess-board, inviting visitors to a game. I thought it a pity to miss this chance and had a game. He told me that he was the chairman of the Greenwich Chess Club and invited me to come along to the club. This I did and subsequently became a member. To my way of thinking it is better for a spastic to join a club where he meets normal people, rather than one for spastics only. The members treated me as one of themselves; and so do the antiquarians. This helps one to gain confidence and this is also true if a spastic joins a church. At first, I felt that I could not attend the services; not because I was not a believer—for I have always been one—but because, like so many other spastics, I was for years unable to control my feelings and became very emotional when in church, but now I have got over that trouble.

So today I lead a happy and useful life. In truth, I would not want to be different from what I am, for I am convinced that we handicapped people are sent into the world to show

that man can become master of his body, however poor it may be. I think that was what my aunt meant when she used to tell me that it was all good practice. And with that thought I end this poor chronicle of an unrepentant spastic.

### MY ADVICE TO SPASTICS

Some spastics complain of there not being enough excitement in their lives and wish they could go off and do exciting things. I know I have done it in my time. But I soon found out that just complaining got me nowhere, so I decided that I must make my own excitement. It is quite easy. All you have to do is to make up your mind that you are going to do things for yourself. For example, take that hand of yours that won't do its job. Pretend there is a high mountain and you are going to climb it by making that hand do what you want it to. If you go the right way about it you will get all the excitement you need. You will also have quite a useful hand at the end of it.

I think we spastics ought to do all we can for ourselves. It is very nice to sit back and let our parents and friends do everything they can to help us; but what are we going to do when they are not around any more? I know what you are saying: "It's all right for you, you are one of the lucky ones." You are quite right: I am one of the lucky ones, but I would not be if I had not climbed to the top of my mountain. As it happens, I have just come back from an air-trip to the Channel Islands with a relative. If you want to do anything or achieve something strongly enough, there are no limitations. With determination, everything is ours.

Try to be patient with your parents and try to see their point of view and help them in any way you can, even when it is the last thing you want to do. I have found that going out of your way to do a kindness or help someone is the best way to help oneself.

By sharing the troubles of others, your own do not seem so bad. If you feel shy with strangers, the best way to get over it, I find, is to make yourself talk to them, even if they do not always understand you. Sometimes we meet people who, we think, are being unkind, but really they feel quite shy with us. Sometimes it affects them in such a way that they appear to be quite as bad as they think we are. There is nothing we can do about it but try to put them at their ease.

### DR. SHAPIRO'S REPORT

(Continued from page 16)

require special facilities in that apparent or manifest mental retardation may not be due to neurological brain damage but to the accompanying effect of severe disabilities.

In the Unit, special provisions are being made for the very careful diagnosis of our patients. Sensory disturbances and disorders of speech mechanism, such as aphasia, are a not-infrequent concomitant of neurological disturbances in spastics, and will need careful elucidation. There are a number of intelligence tests designed for the testing of spastics, but it may be that they will have to be specially adapted for assessing the responses of the patient to treatment. Epilepsy and other convulsive phenomena are an important factor in our type of patient and the control is an important part of the cases so afflicted. The project of the Unit is still very experimental and it is hoped that it will prove of benefit for the patients for whom so far no effective provisions have been made. It is essential to realise that in such a Unit a lot

Now that we are on the subject of speech, my advice is: Never be afraid to give your own opinion on the matter which is being discussed. Try to work things out for yourself, don't just go by what others tell you.

If you are a spastic who has found out how to live a normal life then these remarks are not for you.

### HINTS TO PARENTS ON HOW TO BRING UP A SPASTIC CHILD

Some of my readers might think: "What has he to tell us on how to bring up our children?" My answer is that, having been taught at home and making good and having been told by people that I am the only home-taught spastic they have met, I think I am qualified to write on this subject.

1. Always treat and speak to the child as you would to anyone normal and train him to get into the way of helping you to do little jobs about the house and garden. This will most likely make his limbs ache, so explain to him that the more he uses them the less they will ache.

2. When he is trying to do a job which to you may be easy, remember that to him it may be the hardest he has ever known. Give him all the encouragement you can, but see that he does the job himself.

3. If the child dribbles, it is useless to tell him to stop; for that will make him lose control altogether. The best treatment is to let him chew gum, while it is wise also to get a physiotherapist to give throat massage.

4. Do train the spastic in the way of regular habits. He may not get the idea at first, but in the end he will be very grateful to you. It makes all the difference, for example, to get out of bed at the same time each day.

5. Try to make time to read to the spastic every day. Read some good novel or, to a child, some well-known children's book. This will take him out of himself and, if he gets really interested, will make him want to learn to read. Incidentally, you can punish him by refusing the reading—so long as you do not let him talk you into reading after all!

6. Never treat a spastic as an invalid. We know that some of them cannot become absolutely independent, but even very bad cases can manage to do a little; and even small achievement does more for the spastic than can the doctor himself.

► THE END.

of stress ought to be placed on research and development of methods.

The main treatment of the Unit will consist of physiotherapy. As the patients improve it will be very necessary for them to use the newly-acquired motor control for the acquisition of social skills. This will be done by means of occupational therapy and remedial teaching. Education, occupational therapy and treatment will have to be integrated in the therapeutic programme. It is essential that the patients should be subjected to continuous therapeutic influence and in order to achieve that, we hope that our patients whom we hope to keep together in special wards will be in the care of specially trained nursing staff. It is realised that the role of the nurse in the rehabilitation of our patients is an extremely important one.

Finally, our neurosurgery which has produced very promising results in cases of hemiplegia, may yet hold out hope for improvement in other conditions, particularly the athetoses.

# MISS AUSTRALIA'S VISIT

Miss Joan Stanbury who managed to take up substantial space in this country without actually being here (remember our last month's front cover?) definitely stood up to expectation. One must say a rather long expectation which was unfortunately caused by her delayed plane.

The guests at the buffet luncheon given in her honour at the Dorchester Hotel on January 13th, waited patiently for a long hour before they saw Miss Australia.

Despite her journey she arrived looking gay and unruffled in a green tweed dress and coral baker-boy hat.

Presenting a bouquet of flowers was Miss Anne Plummer, a member of the staff of the National Spastic Society, who is a spastic.

Dr. C. P. Stevens, Director of the Society, together with his wife were excellent hosts, presenting a very warm welcome from everybody. Miss Australia's response did not lag behind in enthusiasm and warmth. Her speech was fluent in words and humour and no doubt her experience as a teacher proved to be of value.

Many distinguished Australians were present. These included Mrs. Hoare, wife of the Agent General for Western Australia, Lady Allen Brown, the wife of the Deputy High Commissioner, and the Senior Trade Commissioner. Mrs. Jeeps, Vice-President of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, chatted with Avril Angers who looked very charming in a red wool dress. Jill Brown, whom readers know as the nurse in Emergency Ward 10, was naturally the centre of a crowd of admirers. Bill Kerr and Hy Hazell were also amongst the guests. There is no doubt, whoever was there enjoyed themselves and the reception fulfilled its purpose.

The association between Joan and the Society did not end with the reception. Chaperoned by Miss Bonnie Treasure, Joan took 20 children from the Thomas De la Rue School to the Coliseum, on January 18th, to see "Aladdin". We couldn't say who enjoyed the pantomime more!

On the following afternoon, Joan and Miss Treasure visited "Sherrards" training centre. In a subsequent interview, Joan said, "We were greeted by Mr. Knight, the Principal, and found so much to talk about that we could have stayed all evening but were forced to leave because seats were booked for us to see 'My Fair Lady'—for the third time because I have already seen it twice in Australia."

"I shall be taking a lot of ideas home with me," she said. "There are great possibilities in Australia for training centres such as 'Sherrards'. We only have sheltered workshops where we try to keep the spastics busy and happy, but have

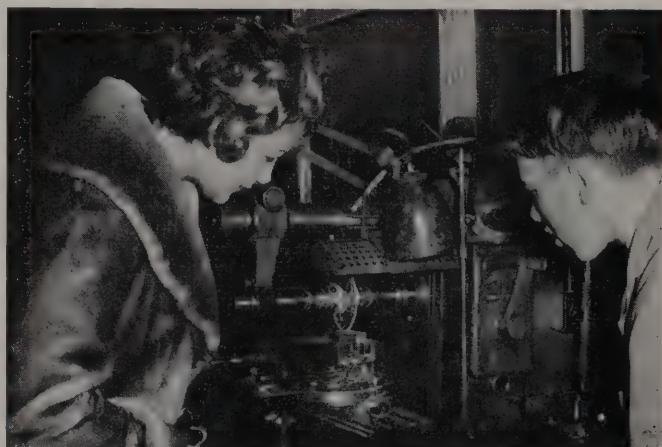


*At her reception in the Dorchester, Miss Australia smilingly receives a bouquet from Miss Anne Plummer of the National Spastics Society. Dr. Stevens looks on*

not yet thought of placing them in industry. In every capital state there is a spastic centre", she went on, "in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Hobart, and about 1,500 to 2,000 children are treated at the centres."

As if waiting for the question regarding spastic children, Joan unhesitatingly replied, "I think that they are the happiest kids in the world. They are so considerate and willing to try. I know hundreds of spastics and people who run the centres in Australia and I am very proud to have this opportunity of meeting many more spastic organisations abroad." Our answer to that would undoubtedly be, "We are proud of you Joan and all those people who think as you do."

Joan appeared on the B.B.C. television programme "Town and Abroad" and on "What's my Line" with Bonnie Treasure who won herself a certificate, because the panel had failed to guess her occupation as Miss Australia's chaperone.



*Watched by Miss Australia, James Shorter of Liverpool, operates a Horizontal Drilling Machine at Sherrards Training Centre*

# THE EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT'S

## Communiqué . . .

The Employment Department is glad to announce the following young people who have obtained work.

**Gordon Adams**, from **Disley**, has been taken on as a dark-room assistant in the photographic department of a local hat firm.

**Daphne Daniels**, from **Ilford**, who has recently finished a course at Slough Industrial Recuperative Centre, is now working again.

**Graham Elsbury**, from **Westcliff-on-Sea**, has recently started with a well-known radio manufacturer in Southend.

**Edith Fleming**, from **Peckham**, is now working as a packer with Tickopres Ltd.

**Richard Flower**, from **Ealing**, is now working as a caretaker with the local Y.M.C.A.

**Thomas Grieve**, from **Beverley**, has been with the Remploy factory in Hull for some months.

**Ruth Harvey**, from **Swindon**, is with a large engineering firm.

**James Higgins**, from **Glasgow**, has started work with a well-known publisher.

**Derek Hill**, from **Southall**, has also been trained as a Tickopres operator and is employed in Central London.

**Michael Hutchinson**, from **Manchester**, is now employed as a messenger in a local drawing office.

**David Lister**, from **Ipswich**, is employed as a Tickopres operator with a local firm.

**Joyce Matthews** and **Elizabeth Holder** have both recently started at Yateley Industries.

**John Norman** and **Kenneth Powell**, from **Birmingham**, are both working as lift attendants.

**Jennifer Paull**, from **Crewkerne**, has recently started as a switchboard operator with a local manufacturer.

**Josephine Payne**, from **Chesham**, is doing assembly work with a local valve manufacturer.

**David Phythian** from **S.E. London**, has a job as a cleaner with a local firm.

**David Rawbone**, from **S.E. London**, having completed his training at Sherrards, is employed by a motor-cycle firm on bench work.

**Marianne Smith** has taken a Tickopres training and is working in Central London.

**Alan Storow**, from **Hemel Hempstead**, has completed his training at Sherrards and is now working as a machine operator with a local engineering firm.

**Harry Theobald**, from **Enfield**, after taking a training in Tickopres operating, is now working with a large local store.

### FROM THE ASSESSMENT COURSE

Although we had a very good time at the Assessment Course at the Arundel Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, in November 1959, it was not all fun and games and as a result of the students' hard work, four were placed in jobs within a few weeks of the end of the course and for three of these young people it was their first job.

**Rodney Brodie** is now working with an engineering firm in Cambridge.

**Joy Hurford**, after a short training on Tickopres machines, is now working in S.E. London.

**Robert Simmonds** has just started work with an engineering firm in East Barnet and he seems to be getting on very well.

**Pamela Staff** is now employed by a well-known dyers and cleaners in Norwich.

Of the others, seven are on the waiting list for Sherrards Training Centre, one other young man is training as a Tickopres operator and one of the girls is now in a residential centre in Oxfordshire.

So, in spite of the jollification, the Assessment Course has served a very useful purpose in deciding what careers these young people should take up.

**The next Assessment Course will be held at Colwell Court, Bexhill-on-Sea, from February 8th-19th.**

### NEW MEMBER TO THE STAFF OF THE ARUNDEL HOTEL

Mr. Bernard Burrows, from South Devon, has recently been appointed to the staff of the Arundel Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, to help with the more handicapped guests. Mr. Burrows has attended all the Assessment Courses as a helper and so is used to young people. He is a champion cyclist and a great sportsman and we feel sure that the holiday-makers at the Arundel Hotel this summer will enjoy some extra activities which he will organise for them.

During the winter, the Employment Department is running an experimental course in domestic work at the Arundel Hotel. Betty Channon, from Exeter, and Kathleen Rushton, from Birmingham, started a short course on Monday, 25th January.

## Group Alterations

New Secretary:

### PETERBOROUGH & DISTRICT GROUP

F. C. CLIFFORD, Esq.,  
206 Dogsthorpe Road,  
Peterborough,  
Northants.



Change of Address:

### LEICESTER & LEICESTERSHIRE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Secretary:

MISS T. A. BRADBURY,  
218 Wigston Lane,  
Aylestone,  
Leicester.



### NORFOLK & NORWICH SPASTIC ASSOCIATION

Secretary:

MRS. J. BARNES,  
Home Farm,  
Pulham Market,  
Diss,  
Norfolk.



### APPEALS DEPARTMENT, NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY:

26 Charlotte Street,  
W.1.



New Borough:

THE CROYDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH are responsible for the Borough of Sutton and Cheam.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

### Thomas Delarue School

Rosemary Dawson Shepherd, daughter of the Chairman of the N.S.S., has just passed the G.C.E. Ordinary level with a distinction in French. She now has 4 "O" level subjects to her credit. This year she is taking a further "O" level subject and the following year 2 "A" levels.

Susan Helman, 15, has just passed her G.C.E. "O" level in French. Susan, too, has 4 subjects at "O" level and shows great promise.

Alan Brookes has passed the Royal Society of Arts examination in typewriting with credit.

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## WORKACHAIR DEMONSTRATIONS

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# Regionalisation Scheme

## Disposition of the Groups

### Eastern Region

(*Harry Knight*)

*Office will be located at Peterborough.)*

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society  
Corby and District Branch  
Derby and District Branch of NSS  
Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Spastics Society  
Ipswich Branch  
Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society  
Lincoln Branch  
Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group  
Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association  
Northampton and County Branch  
Nottingham Friends of Spastics Group  
(Sub-Committee of Nottingham District Cripples Guild)  
Peterborough and District Group  
Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society  
Stamford Branch

### Midland Region

(*Officer to be appointed in 1960*)

Cannock Chase Spastic Association  
Coventry and District Spastics Society  
Dudley and District Spastic Group  
Ludlow and District Spastics Society  
North Staffordshire Spastic Association  
Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group  
Stafford and District Spastics Association  
Worcester and District Branch

### North Region

(*Roland J. F. Whyte*  
*Office: Leeds*)

Barnsley and District Association  
Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society  
Blackburn and District Group  
Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group  
Bollington, Macclesfield and District Clinic for Spastic Children  
Bolton and District Group  
Bradford and District Branch  
Castleford Spastics Group  
Chester and District Spastics Association  
Crewe and District Spastics Society  
Crosby and District Spastics Society  
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society  
Darlington and District Spastics Society  
Dewsbury and District Spastics Society  
Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society  
Goole and District Spastics Association  
Halifax and District Spastic Group  
Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Group  
Leeds and District Spastics Society  
Oldham and District Spastic Society  
Pontefract and District Spastics Society  
Preston and District Group  
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society  
Rossendale Spastic Group  
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society  
Sheffield and District Spastics Society  
Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society  
Stockport and District Spastics Society  
Sunderland and District Spastics Society  
Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics  
Urmston and District Group  
Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics  
Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group  
York and District Spastics Group

Welwyn Garden City and District Group,  
Herts Spastics Society  
Wycombe and District Spastics Society

### South-East Region

(*Simon T. Langley*)

*Office: Tunbridge Wells*)

Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastic Society  
Brighton, Hove and District Branch  
Bromley and District Spastics Group  
Central Surrey Group  
Chichester Branch  
Croydon and District Branch  
East Sussex Group (Hastings and District)  
Folkestone and District Branch of NSS  
Isle of Wight Group  
Maidstone Area Spastic Group  
Medway Towns Branch of NSS  
North Hants and West Surrey Group  
North Surrey Group (Kingston)  
North-West Kent Spastic Group  
North-West Surrey Group  
Portsmouth and District Spastic Society  
Southampton and District Spastics Association

### Northern Home Counties Region

(*Robert Lemarie*)

Bedford and District Branch of NSS  
Bishop's Stortford Group, Herts Spastics Society  
Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society  
Clacton and District Group  
Colchester and District Group  
East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society  
East London Spastic Society  
Epping Forest and District Branch of NSS  
Essex Group  
Harlow and District Branch  
Hatfield Group, Herts Spastics Society  
Hemel Hempstead Group, Herts Spastics Society

Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics  
Ilford and District Spastics Association  
Luton and District Spastics Group  
Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group  
North London Area Association of Parents and Friends of Spastics  
North-West London Group  
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society  
Reading and District Spastics Welfare Society  
Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society  
South-West Middlesex Group  
St. Albans and District Group, Herts Spastics Society  
Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics Society

### Welsh Region (including Mon.)

(*Officer to be appointed in 1960*)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association  
Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
Conway and District Branch of NSS  
Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society  
Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society  
Pontypridd and District Group of NSS  
Swansea and District Spastics Association

### Western Region

(*John J. Walsh*)

*Office: Taunton*)  
Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association  
Bristol Spastics Association  
Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association  
Dame Hannah Rogers School Parents Association  
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association  
Swindon and District Spastic Society

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